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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1   1. (previously amended) A method for classifying blocks of data comprising
2   the steps of:
3   capturing a block of non-textual data using a recording device
4   for which settings for data-capture attributes are indicative of characteristics of
5   said non-textual data;
6   linking meta-data with said block of non-textual data, said
7   meta-data corresponding to at least one said data-capture attribute during
8   said capture by said recording device;
9   performing automated processing to assign description to
10 contents of said block, including utilizing said meta-data in determining said
11 description by operations within a progression of decisional nodes, said
12 progression of decisional nodes being configured to invoke algorithms for
13 selectively assigning descriptions to said blocks of data; and
14   enabling utilization of said descriptions assigned by said
15 operations within said progression of decisional nodes to implement searches
16 for particular said blocks of data via query matching.

1   2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of capturing includes
2   recording at least one of an image file by an image-capture device and audio
3   file by an audio recorder.

1   3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of linking includes
2   obtaining exposure information that identifies an exposure setting of said
3   recording device.

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1   4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of capturing further
2   includes configuring said block as a file of non-textual data in a digital format
3   and wherein said step of linking includes forming a tag to said file, said tag
4   being indicative of a plurality of exposure time, automatic gain, film speed,
5   shutter speed, white balance, aperture/lens index, focusing index, and
6   flash/no flash operation.

1   5. (original) The method of claim 1 further including a step of transmitting
2   said block of said non-textual data and said meta-data from said recording
3   device to a computer for performing said automated processing.

1   6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said automated processing
2   includes analyzing said non-textual data and said meta-data to identify
3   content-based information and manipulating said content-based information to
4   derive said description.

1   7. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein said step of analyzing includes
2   applying digital signal processing (DSP) to said non-textual data.

1   8. (cancelled)

1   9. (previously amended) A system for classifying subject data comprising:
2   a recording device for capturing non-textual subject data and for
3   recording meta-data, said meta-data being specific to an operational mode of
4   said recording device during capturing of said non-textual subject data; and
5   a processor configured to implement a classification technique,
6   said classification technique including a decision tree capable of invoking
7   algorithms that utilize both of said non-textual subject data and said meta-data
8   for identifying at least one classifier, said classifier being representative of an
9   attribute of said subject data, said processor being further configured to
10   implement searches for specific said non-textual subject data via query
11   matching to classifiers identified by said classification technique.

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1   10. (original) The system of claim 9 wherein said recording device is a digital
2   camera.

1   11. (original) The system of claim 9 wherein said operational mode of said
2   recording device is based on a state as determined by at least one of
3   exposure time, auto gain setting, film speed, shutter speed, white balance,
4   aperture/lens index, focusing distance, and flash/no flash operation.

1   12. (original) The system of claim 9 wherein said classification technique is a
2   sequential progression of decision making comprising a plurality of
3   classification nodes, at least some of said classification nodes including
4   algorithms for determining which of a plurality of alternative next classification
5   nodes is to be encountered in said sequential progression of decision making.

1   13. (original) The system of claim 9 wherein said classification technique is a
2   neural network having an input stage, an output stage and at least one
3   decision-making stage, said decision-making stage comprising a plurality of
4   classification nodes, at least some of said classification nodes configured to
5   receive a plurality of weighted inputs from other classification nodes within
6   said decision-making stage and from said input stage for generating an output
7   as a basis for identifying classifiers.

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1   14. (currently amended) A method of categorizing files of non-textual data
2   comprising the steps of:
3   establishing an evaluation system for decision making, including
4   using automated processing techniques to define a plurality of algorithms,
5   said algorithms utilizing both of content-based data and meta-data, said
6   content-based data corresponding to content information of a file of said
7   non-textual data and said meta-data corresponding to data-capturing
8   settings of a data-capturing device during capture of said file of non-textual
9   data, said establishing including a learning procedure in which said meta-data
10   is identified for each of a plurality of learning images, said meta-data for each
11   said learning image being indicative of operational conditions of said
12   data-capturing device during capture of said learning image;
13   capturing a file of non-textual subject data;
14   processing said file of non-textual subject data through said
15   evaluation system for decision making to selectively identify a plurality of
16   classifiers associated with said file of non-textual subject data, said evaluation
17   system including a progression of decisional nodes configured to invoke said
18   algorithms so as to selectively identify said plurality of classifiers; and
19   enabling utilization of said plurality of classifiers identified by
20   said evaluation system for decision making to implement searches for said file
21   via query matching.

1   15. (cancelled)

1   16. (currently amended) The method of claim 14 [[15]] further comprising a
2   step of generating a plurality of learning classifiers that are descriptive of said
3   learning images, said step of generating including applying content-based
4   analysis for said content-based data and meta-data analysis for said meta-
5   data.